

RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

15 September 2016
Highland Plaza Building, Auditorium
3760 South Highland Drive
Salt Lake City, UT

Members Present: Laura Brown, Nikki Cunard, Jessica Goodman, Dale Smith, and Ilse Wilson.

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Department of Health and Child Care Licensing Staff Present: Sarah Atherton, Marc E. Babitz, Avis Burrows, Patrice Isabella, Donna Thomas, Kathleen Sanders, Jessica Strout, Kim Rice, and Austin Roy.

WELCOME

Mr. Smith welcomed those members of the committee and the public who were in attendance. Meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the May meeting were approved via email.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Vacancies

The committee discussed the current vacancies:

- 1) Licensed Family Child Care Provider
- 2) Licensed Family Child Care Provider
- 3) Pediatrician
- 4) Certified Residential Child Care Provider

Vote – Vice Chair

Committee voted and selected Ilse Wilson to be the Residential Child Care Licensing Advisory Committee Vice Chair.

Screen Time Limit

Committee discussed ways to help prevent or reduce screen time in child care facilities, and the Department of Health's role in enforcing limits. Ilse W. expressed her concern for the health of

children, and the need to reduce screen time. Ilse proposed that a chart be created to keep track of daily screen time per child in a child care facility. Ilse asked the question: what can be done by the Department of Health to reduce/prevent screen time?

Laura B. spoke about the AAP guidelines and how they have become less strict over time. The AAP is due to release new guidelines in October 2016. Laura mentioned that she would share a handout with the rest of the committee that addresses appropriate and best use of screen time.

Dr. Marc Babitz voiced his opinion that screen time is an issue that is best left to the parents of each individual child; a parent has a right to decide how much screen time their child will have.

Committee recommended that the 2016 and 2017 AAP guidelines should be posted to the CCL website for future dissemination.

Related Children Rule Clarification

Providers have expressed concern and are seeking clarification regarding Rule 90-11, related children and ratios.

Dr. Marc Babitz explained that the term ‘related’ is used to determine whether or not a license can be issued. Dr. Babitz said that when determining ratios safety is the key concern, and ratios should be based on how many children (related or not) an individual can safely supervise.

Kimberly Rice presented sections of the CCL Interpretation Manual and went over the definition of ‘child in care’ according to statute. A child in care is defined by statute as any child that is not the child of the provider.

Two providers from the audience (did not give their names) voiced their opinion and frustration over statute, and expressed that they felt that grandchildren should count the same as children.

Nicole C. spoke from her perspective as a parent, and she said that she does not feel it is safe for so many children to be under the supervision of only one adult.

Dr. Babitz then asked where should the line be drawn with regards to defining a child in care; cousins, grandchildren, second-cousins, etc.?

Laura B. said that as a pediatrician she finds it concerning to have so many children with one single provider, and even if the provider were the best grandparent in the world they still would not be able to watch too many children.

A provider from the audience (did not give a name) responded that she feels the line should be drawn at own grandchildren when making an exception for ratios.

Another provider from the audience (did not give a name) commented that she feels statute does not clearly define ‘qualifying child’, and that if we change related children to own children, then we are overstepping our boundaries.

Deborah Tilley commented that she comes from a family of 10 and each of them have 8 kids of their own, and that this means her family has a lot of grandkids. Deborah agreed with earlier comments from Dr. Babitz, and she is concerned for the health and safety of children. Deborah said that even the best provider can have limitations on certain days, i.e. getting sick, stress, health issues, etc. The more kids a provider has in care, the more potential problems they have. Deborah feels that you cannot sign a child's rights away, and that people will find a way to sue a provider if they are determined enough.

Jessica G. feels that ratios should be based on numbers alone, and that no exceptions should be made for related children, and she agreed with the comments from Deborah Tilley.

Ilse W. said that she feels like the table in the current interpretation manual is good and that a provider's square footage should be taken into consideration when determining exception for ratios.

Dale S. recommended that CCL research this issue (Rule 90-11, qualifying child, and group size) further and come back with a recommendation at the next meeting. Ilse W. made a motion and the committee approved; issue was tabled until the next meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paula Barton asked if Residential Certificate holders are included in the rule for related children, and she was told that they are. She then commented that she agrees with the rule and she wants children to be safe. Paula is concerned that if people care for less than 4 children they are not getting inspected because they do not qualify for the food program. However, she thinks that providers with less than 4 children in care should still be inspected, possibly by the food program, for the safety of the kids.

Dr. Babitz responded to the comment by Paula Barton, and informed her that statute prohibits enforcement or inspections on any provider who cares for 4 or fewer children.

A grandparent in the audience (did not give a name) said that there is no difference between parents and grandparents when it comes to the supervision of a child, and that safety does not change if the extra kids are a providers own versus their grandkids.

ASSIGNMENTS

Laura Brown: Send screen time handout to CCL to be distributed to committee members.

Donna Thomas: Upload AAP guidelines for screen time to the CCL website.

Kathleen Sanders: research and make recommendation regarding Rule 90-11, related children in care, qualifying child, and group size.

AGENCY AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Care About Childcare – Karrie Phillips

- A new webinar for CCDF reauthorization will be available the week of September 19, 2016 on the CAC website. This is now required in order to report lower rates online. Providers will automatically be qualified for 12 months.
- Requirements for the After School Credential, a type of professional development award, have been updated.
- CAC will be contacting providers in the next few months to gather data regarding emergency contact information, and data on children with disabilities.

Child Care Licensing – Donna Thomas

- Reminder: Care About Childcare is working with Child Care Licensing to process fingerprints. Appointment is required. Next Generation Fingerprint fee must be paid with Child Care Licensing before Care About Childcare will process fingerprints. CAC is currently waiving the handling fee for fingerprints. All providers and caregivers will be required to have Next Generation Fingerprints completed by September 30, 2017.
- The Child Care Licensing Emergency Preparedness Plan has been expanded and now includes a plan for communicating with providers in the event of a major disaster or emergency.
- CCL is very close to being able to take online payments for all fees (Fingerprints, Background Screenings, License/Certificate Fees, etc.), and more information will be coming soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE 2016

November 10, 2016

Highland Plaza Building
3760 S. Highland Dr.
Salt Lake City, UT
3rd Floor Auditorium
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Anyone with a disability requiring accommodations to attend or fully participate in this program should contact Austin Roy at (801) 273-2904 or via email at aroy@utah.gov to request reasonable accommodations.